



The Values Action Team

Congressman Joe Pitts, Chairman

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—Sample Speech—

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Marriage a Women's Safety Issue

Mr. Speaker,

Preserving and strengthening America's marriages is not just a values issue.

It's a safety issue, especially for women.

According to federal government statistics, women are almost **MUCH MORE** likely to be victims of domestic abuse if they aren't married.

In fact, domestic partner or spouse violence against women is almost **THREE TIMES** as high among cohabiting couples as it is among **ALL** married, divorced, and separated couples **COMBINED**.

And if you simply compare married couples to couples who just live together, violence against women is **FIVE TIMES AS HIGH** for those who aren't married.

Clearly, women are safest when they are living in healthy, committed marriages.

To most Americans, this sounds like common sense.

But for the most at-risk women in America—I mean poor women—our welfare laws create a **STRONG DISINCENTIVE** against marriage.

Mr. Speaker, that needs to change.

I hope when we reauthorize our welfare laws later this year, we'll do that.

America's families, and America's women, deserve no less.